

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE

REF: STATE 033536

1. AFTER THE MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) IN COLOMBIA LAST OCTOBER THE OAS ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE (DATED NOVEMBER 2, 1973) REPORTING THAT THE IAHRC HAD SENT TWO NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE IN ORDER TO CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF THE IAHRC'S EXAMINING THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

2. FYI - WE UNDERSTAND THE GOC HAS YET TO RESPOND TO ONE OF THESE NOTES. DR. LUIS REQUE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE IAHRC, WAS IN SANTIAGO THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3 AND DISCUSSED THE DRAFT OF THE COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT WITH MANUEL BIANCHI AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. REQUE WAS PROVIDED WITH SOME INFORMATION AND PROMISED THAT THE GOC WOULD RESPOND FURTHER BY FEBRUARY 15. NOTHING MORE HAS BEEN HEARD FROM THE GOC AND THE COMMISSION STILL HAS PENDING ITS DECISION ON WHETHER TO REQUEST GOC CONSENT FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT EXAMINATION. END FYI.

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3. THE OAS SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY IS

CURRENTLY IN CHILE. FAILURE TO BALANCE THIS VISIT WITH ONE BY THE IAHCRC COULD PROVOKE FURTHER CRITICISM INTERNATIONALLY IN THE WAKE OF THE UNFORTUNATE DEATHS OF JOSE TOHA AND GENERAL BACHELET.

4. WE BELIEVE THE JUNTA WOULD BE SERVING ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS AND IMPROVING THE PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IF IT WERE TO SUBMIT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE IAHCRC AND INVITE THE COMMISSION TO COME TO CHILE. JUDGING BY THE PAST RECORD WE WOULD EXPECT A COMMISSION REPORT ON CHILE TO BE BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE.

5. THE EMBASSY MAY WISH TO EXPLORE THIS QUESTION PRIVATELY WITH MANUEL BIANCHI. FURTHER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUITABLE MEANS COULD BE FOUND FOR THE EMBASSY TO ENCOURAGE AFFIRMATIVE GOC ACTION WITHOUT SUGGESTING ANY INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL CHILEAN AFFAIRS. IN TREATING THE SUBJECT WITH BIANCHI OR THE GOC, THE EMBASSY SHOULD AVOID INDICATING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF FACT GOC HAS ALREADY FURNISHED SOME INFORMATION AND PROMISED MORE. REFERENCE CAN BE MADE TO THE OAS PRESS RELEASE OF NOVEMBER 2 AND THE QUESTION ASKED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE RESPONSE. KISSINGER

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